

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04840 291501Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 PA-02 PRS-01 /033 W

-----003770 291513Z /50

O R 261429Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4182

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4840

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: MIAMI JAZZ EVALUATION

1. UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI JAZZ BAND GAVE THREE PERFORMANCES AT FAIRGROUNDS THEATER, EACH TO AUDIENCES OF AROUND 500. GROUP VERY GOOD MUSICALLY DESPITE MOUNTING TOLL OF DAILY ILLNESSES. REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMANCES CAN BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE ALTHOUGH MORE ELABORATE SYSTEM PREFERRED. GROUP RELAXED AND FLEXIBLE FOR MUSICAL REUIREMENTS AND IN PERFORMANCES. IN EXPERIENCE WITH FOUR UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLES IN RECENT YEARS, PAO RANKS GROUP SECOND IN OVERALL ABILITY, THIRD IN SOLISTS, FOURTH IN ADAPTIBILITY.

2. AUDIENCE TURNOUT VERY DISSAPPOINTING TO POST. ATTRIBUTED TO LARGE EXTENT TO GENERAL PUBLIC NERVOUSNESS ABOUT LARGE GATHERINGS IN WAKE OF SERIES OF BMOB EXPLOSIONS. AUDIENCE REACTION, HOWEVER, WAS POSITIVE IF NOT IWLDLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

3. PROBLEMS. ALMOST HALF OF BAND IS NOW SUFFERING FROM ONE AILMENT OR ANOTHER, MOSTLY COLDS OR FLU WITH EXPECTED NUMBER OF DIARRHEA CASES. THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR LOW MORALE, BUT ALSO FEEL GROUP WAS POORLY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 04840 291501Z

BRIEFED BEFORE THEIR U.S. DEPARTURE ON CONDITIONS IN M.E. MAJORITY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS NOT COMPLAINING, BUT BAND MANAGERS, YOUNG AND RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED IN DEALING WITH NON-U.S. CONDITIONS, APPEAR TO FEEL HEAVY PRESSURE OF POOR HEALTH OF THEIR GROUP. THIS RESULTED IN STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN POST AND BAND. FOR EXAMPLE, GROUP COMPLAINED OVER QUALITY OF HOTEL,

DESPITE FACT FAIR AUTHORITY PROVIDED ROOM AND BOARD AT OMAYYED HOTEL WHICH CLASS BY DAMASCUS STANDARDS AND HEAVILY UTILIZED BY EMBASSY FOR VISITORS, WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS. POST ALSO PROVIDED 10 DOLLARS PER DIEM, BRINGING TOTAL TO EQUIVALENT OF REGULAR EMBASSY DAMASCUS PER DIEM FOR VISITORS. THIS SEEMED TO FALL SHORT OF GROUP'S EXPECTATIONS. ONWARD POSTS SHOULD BE WARNED THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO CONVINCE GROUP THAT CONDITIONS AT OMAYYED NOT TERRIBLE BY AREA STANDARDS AND BAND EXPECTS MUCH BETTER FACILITIES FOR BALANCE OF TOUR, WHICH WE DOUBT WILL BE CASE.

4. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT NIETHER SENIOR FACULTY MEMBER NOR STATE ESCORT OFFICER TRAVELED WITH GROUP, AS MORE ASSERTIVE LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL. ADDITIONALLY, FACT THAT BAND EXPECTED "FIRST CLASS" ACCOMODATIONS BY U.S. STANDARDS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFINGS COULD HAVE BEEN MORE COMPLETE. IN DAMASCUS, GROUP WAS ACCORDED TREATMENT AND FACILITIES EQUAL TO, IF NOT BETTER THAN, PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, BUT COMPLAINED VIGOROUSLY. THE TEMPTATION TO COMPARE THIS GROUP WITH FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND IN 1974, WHICH STAYED IN NON-AIRCONDITIONED UNIVERSITY DORMITORIES WITH COMMUNIAL BATHING FACILITIES WITHOUT COMPLAINT IS TOO STRONG TO RESIST. FOR A COLLEGE GROUP THEY ARE GOOD, BUT THEY ARE STILL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 04840 291501Z

UNKNOWN COLLEGE MUSICIANS, AND SEEM TO FEEL THEY DESERVE TREATMENT ACCORDED TO ESTABLISHED STARS.

5. AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR, ABOUT HALF OF GROUP MANAGED TO APPEAR. THOSE WHO CAME WERE EXCELLENT REPRESENTATIVES OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY AND MIXED WELL WITH GUESTS. MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC04840  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770716/aaaaanof.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** 03108663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1740885  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MIAMI JAZZ EVALUATION  
**TAGS:** SCUL  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/03108663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009